



APRIL 2014

The *Pipevine*

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



General Meeting

APRIL 2, 2014

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Butte County Library, Chico

Presented by
AARON SIMS
Rare Plant Botanist
California Native Plant Society

Reviewing the Rarity Status of Plants from Northern California

California has some of the highest plant diversity in the world and leads the nation in numbers of native plants. Of roughly 6,500 native plants in California, over 2,300 are considered rare, threatened, or endangered. This presentation will introduce some of the reasons California has such rich flora diversity, explore new additions to the Northern California flora, and report on some rare plants that have gone unnoticed. It will also provide an overview of the rare plants known from within the Mount Lassen Chapter area, as well as current data and other still-needed information.

Aaron Sims is the CNPS Rare Plant Botanist and manages our Rare Plant Program. He received a degree in Ecology and Systematic Biology with an emphasis in Botany from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Aaron worked as a biologist for California State Parks on the Central Coast, performing rare plant and vegetation surveys, prescribed fire management, and produced maps pertaining to sensitive resources. He also spent a summer monitoring nesting sea birds on a remote island in Alaska, a year as an environmental consultant and authored the Atlas of Sensitive Species of the Morro Bay Area.



Ahart's Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *ahartii*) by Ron Coley



**STATE PARK IN THE SUTTER BUTTES
PEACE VALLEY & VICINITY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

April 12
Saturday

The Sutter Buttes are located about 34 miles south of Chico and 7 miles west of Live Oak. In 2003, California State Parks acquired property on the north side of the Sutter Buttes, recognizing its significant natural, cultural, geologic, scenic, and recreational resource values.

Simultaneous walks are scheduled for guided groups only. Woody Elliott will lead a wildflower search along the easy trails (below 300 ft) in Peace Valley. Jim Dempsey will interpret a more strenuous route over the surrounding ridges (1800 - 2000 ft) to see plant communities and panoramas.

The trip is limited to 30 persons. To sign up please contact Woody Elliott (email preferred) woodyelliott@gmail.com or 530 588-2555. Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot (Hwy 99/32) at 8:30 am or at the Live Oak Memorial Park Public Pool on Pennington Rd (3rd block on right west of ARCO Gas Station) at 9:15 am. Please specify your meeting location and contact phone or email. Yet to be determined fee per person to cover costs of special use permit and park employee escort. Bring lunch, water, hat, hiking shoes, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing.

Eriophyllum lanatum var. *grandiflorum* by Robert Fischer

Wes Dempsey and Gerry Ingco
Co-chairs

**TEN MILE HOUSE TRAIL
UPPER BIDWELL PARK, CHICO**

April 20
Sunday

Meet at 10 am on the northside of Hwy 32 at the Green Gate entrance to Upper Bidwell Park (9 miles east of Hwy 32/99 intersection in Chico). There is a small parking area on the north or left side of Hwy 32. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection and sturdy shoes. Starting at 900 ft, We will hike 1-1/2 miles down the historical old wagon road to our lunch spot along Big Chico Creek. We might see yellow star tulip, scarlet fritillary and California buckeye in bloom under the black oaks and bay laurel. Also learn about the rich history of this trail and its significance to the old Humboldt Wagon Road to Susanville. Be prepared to climb up 700 ft on the 2 mile return, a strenuous, but worthwhile walk, up to the trailhead. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293

**YAH! TRAIL
UPPER BIDWELL PARK, CHICO**

April 26
Saturday

Meet at 9:30 am in Upper Bidwell Park Parking Lot L, by driving the gravel road about 1.7 miles beyond Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot E. Bring Lunch, water, sun/insect protection and sturdy shoes. We will hike about 2.2 miles to the trail's end and return via the Upper Park Road. The Yahi Trail follows Big Chico Creek with spectacular views of a canyon with sheer basalt cliffs. Canyon walls stair-step sharply upward to towering rims above. April can be a period of profuse wildflower displays on grassy flats and in oak woodlands all along the trail. We will watch for wild turkey toms strutting in full plumage. Learn about other wildlife species residing here. Heavy rains cause the closure of the Upper Park Road at the end paved surface.(near Horseshoe Lake Lot E), call a leader to find out if the trip has been cancelled. Leaders: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123, Wes Dempsey 530-324-2293.

Executive Board Meeting

April 16, 7 pm

Moore Residence, 1872 Bidwell Ave, Chico
pmoore@csuchico.edu

President's Message

by Catie Bishop, President

Spring is coming fast, and the season is getting busy. Jim and I have been down in Claremont at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for the CNPS quarterly Chapter Council meeting.



Chapter Council (CC) is an important part of the CNPS year. It is a meeting of all the Chapters every 3 months. Though not all Chapters can attend all meetings, we typically have over 20 Chapters represented. The CC meeting itself lasts all day Saturday and half of Sunday. But the Board of Directors meets the Friday before, and field trips are often scheduled for Sunday afternoon, so it is a large time commitment for the delegates, and especially those that are also on the Board. The meetings are held up and down the State.

Chapter Council is valuable in that Chapters learn about the progress of the State level programs. It is also a time for Chapters to share with each other what their concerns and activities are. Chapters often have similar problems and challenges. It is educational to learn how other Chapters deal with their challenges. It is also a time to reconnect with a good group of people from all parts of the state that share a common vision.

Part of the meeting is for break-out sessions that allow a smaller group to focus on certain issues such as membership, education, horticulture, and for this meeting, insurance. I didn't know anything about insurance, so attended that session, and learned quite a bit that I can share with our Executive Board. I will be writing a delegate's report that will be available on the website.

Chapter Council meetings are the interface where the membership (all of us) connects with the larger State organization, to everyone's mutual benefit. Anyone is welcome to attend. It can be contentious sometimes, but also very satisfying.

Legislative Notes

by David Anderson

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROBLEMS TO MAGNIFY

Californians are faced with a huge future increase in the extent of environmental problems, and the increased need for sound, adequately funded and effectively enforced laws. Population growth will cause the added problems. The population projections for California are alarming. According to the California Department of Finance, the California population was 19,953,000 in 1970, and 38,338,000 in 2013. It is expected to reach 50,000,000 in 2049 and 52,700,000 by 2060.

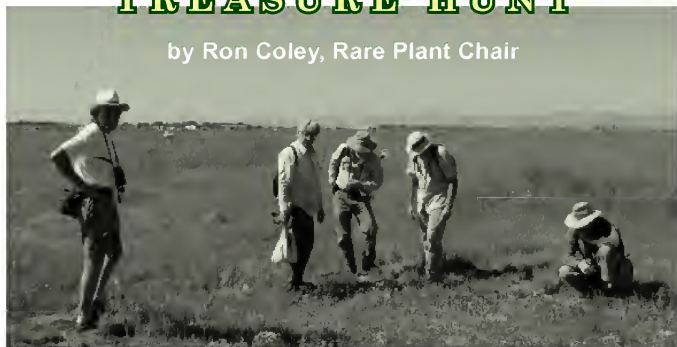
California will need massive new housing projects, power generating facilities, water storage systems and other developments of all kinds to satisfy the growing population. Protecting our endangered native plants and ecosystems will be increasingly difficult as the population pressure grows. We can't prevent growth of our California population, but we who care about the environment can get actively involved in conservation and in the shaping and enforcement of our environmental protection laws. Environmental protection has become an emergency and must not be treated as a secondary consideration in government planning for growth. Environmental organizations such as CNPS can alert us as to issues but individual communication by constituents to government officials at all levels is essential in getting results. Get involved!



oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) by Robert Fischer

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT

by Ron Coley, Rare Plant Chair



THOMES CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Third Time is the Charm

April 6 Sunday

Thomes Creek is a vernal pool area in the grasslands and rolling foothills of Tehama County, northwest of Corning. We will be searching for Ahart's nailwort (*Paronychia ahartii*), Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*). There has to be something out there that is rare. There is a small creek running through the reserve. Contact Ron Coley rcoley64@comcast.net to RSVP for this trip.

Meet at Chico Park & Ride west lot at Hwy 99/32 and be ready to leave at 9 am. Bring hiking shoes, water, lunch, sun/insect protection and money for ridesharing. There will be a 50 foot change in elevation, easy 2-3 miles hike. We will be going north on Hwy 99 to Los Molinos, take a left at the stop light on to Aramayo Road, go to the town of Tehama across the river. At the stop sign take a left on road A11, which turns into Gyle Road, stay on it until you get to Thomes Creek Ecological Reserve. It will be on the left. It is 2 miles past the I-5 overpass. There are small-yellow signs on the fence on the left side of the road. There is a dirt road on the west side of the reserve; it is called Long Dirt Road. There is a gate into the reserve, about three tenths of a mile up Long Dirt Road; don't go past the gate, that is private property.

HOSPITALITY

THANKS YOU

by KarroLynn Yells
Hospitality Chair



Many thanks go out to you
GREAT BAKERS for the General Meetings,
... Janna Lathrop, Cindy Weiner & Ellen Copeland.

Thank You for being so kind!



Learn about . . .

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK

California Native Plant Week (CNPW) is a week dedicated to the appreciation, education, and conservation of California's fabulous flora. The CNPW legislation (ACR 173) was sponsored by CNPS, and introduced by Senator Noreen Evens during the 2010 legislative session to help protect California's native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations by raising awareness about our state's rich botanical diversity. California Native Plant Society promotes CNPW through native plant sales, wildflower shows, gardening workshops, lectures, hikes, and many more events. CNPW events like these allow all California residents to take an active role in preserving the majesty of California's native flora.

VOLUNTEER Events

We are looking for folks to help staff our information booth at the following events. If you are able to volunteer please contact Janna Lathrop Events Chair at jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net or 530 228 0010. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

April 26 Saturday 11 - 3

Chico Creek Nature Center Celebrate the Jewel Event

See page 5 for more information

MAY 3 Saturday 11 - 5

ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIRE AT ONE MILE

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS 2014

Todd Ramsden	Chico
Helen Swagerty	Chico
Ann Ferry	Tehama
Patti Tauscher	Maxwell

For information about becoming a member of
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
contact Membership Chair KarroLynn Yells
530-534-3551, karrolynn@att.net

or use the application on last page
of this newsletter

OPEN GARDEN DAY GATEWAY SCIENCE MUSEUM, CHICO

April 5 Saturday 12 - 3 pm



Join us in pre-celebration of California Native Plant Week (April 12 - 20). The GARDEN ENTRY during the open day event is FREE. Gateway Science Museum invites visitors to celebrate by exploring Gateway's sustainability gardens, including eco-region plantings, the Native Plant Pollinator Garden, and the Edible Display Garden. The event will include tours led by the gardens' AS Student Director and the Garden Curator. Join Gateway staff and community experts at 2 pm for an illustrated talk on how to create a colorful, dynamic, low-maintenance and drought-resistant year-round pollinator garden. Throughout the afternoon, learn more about the importance of our native bees and make your very own mason bee house. Information on Chico's many local horticulture and ecology resources will be available. Next to Bidwell Mansion at 625 the Esplanade. General Museum admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children and students, under 3 are free. For more information about current exhibits visit our website at gatewayscience.org, or call 530 898-4121.

BLOOMIN' BIDWELL PARK A GUIDE TO THE FLOWERS

Website and flower key of
Upper Bidwell Park, Chico
by JON AULL
Education Coordinator/Naturalist
Chico Creek Nature Center

<http://bloominbidwellpark.org>



Vernal Pools In Changing Landscapes: From Shasta To Baja

April 10 - 11, 2014

SIERRA NEVADA BIG ROOM, CHICO

AquAlliance is presenting a conference in Chico on vernal pool landscapes. Presentations include a variety of topics on animals, plants and habitats, as well as on the conservation and management of vernal pools. Registration for Thursday, in the Big Room at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, covers a whole day of talks presented by academic, agency, consulting and other speakers; continental breakfast and a mid-day lunch; and a poster session in late afternoon, with Sierra Nevada hor d'oeuvres. Registration for Friday will cover a day of fieldtrips to various vernal pool landscapes in Northern California. Please visit the AquAlliance website www.aquallianc.net for registration forms and to view the program, with names of speakers and titles of their talks.

CELEBRATE THE JEWEL

CHICO CREEK
NATURE CENTER

1 - 4 pm

Join us for the **3rd Annual**
Celebrate the Jewel! A
fun event for the whole family,

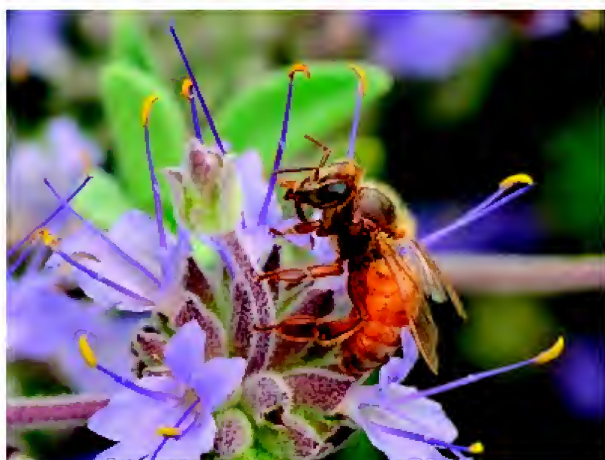
spend a day in Bidwell Park,
the jewel of Chico, featuring a sneak preview and discounted
registration for Summer 2014 Camp Chico Creek. Bring the whole
family to meet many of the recreational and educational groups
that call our Park home. There will be crafts, games, music and
more at the Chico Creek Nature Center, where there is always
more to explore! Chico Creek Nature Center 1968 E. 8th Street,
Chico CA 530 891-4671 BidwellPark.org



NATIVE PLANTS *for the Garden*

by John Whittlesey

Native SAGES for the Garden



Walking through the Gateway Science Pollinator Garden in early March, I was surprised to see, in full bloom, *Salvia dorrii* 'Gayle Nielson' (also sold as 'Trident').

On this cool overcast day the clusters of intense blue-purple flowers, set densely along the slender woody stems, stood out in what was an otherwise dormant, reemerging landscape. After seeing it growing on steep, exposed talus slopes on the east escarpment of the Warner Mountains in northeastern California, this remarkably beautiful sage seemed out of place in such a tame environment. But such is the nature of California's native sages. They are at home in rugged, dry, landscapes, yet for the most part adapt very well to home gardens.

California has 19 species of native salvias. Most are shrubby plants, a few are perennial, and two are annuals. In general they are found growing in dry, temperate regions of California. These native salvias offer up some excellent plants for our gardens where they are grown for attractive fragrant foliage, showy flowers and a reliable year round presence. From these 19 species many cultivars and hybrids have been selected and offered by nurseries. Two species grow in our region. *Salvia sonomensis* is seen covering banks along the roadsides in Forest Ranch and Cohasset while the annual chia, *Salvia columbariae* can be found on quick draining gravelly banks on the west side of the valley.

Thriving in hot, dry conditions native sages require little irrigation in our gardens. Good drainage is important. In the winter especially, cold, soggy soils can kill or shorten the life of most salvias, native or non-native.

A few of my favorites for gardens include:

Cleveland Sage (*S. clevelandii*) This is a wonderful, senses-filling salvia for the garden. The narrow grey green leaves have an intoxicating, yet difficult to pinpoint fragrance, that local writer, Joan Walters, describes as a 'waterfall of pungent aromas' - a fragrance highly appreciated by all who grow it. The showy blue flowers in whorled clusters attract a wealth of wildlife including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

through the Seasons

Purple Sage (*S. leucophylla*) This is a rugged plant that looks attractive throughout the year, enduring heat, drought and poor soils. It has a mounding spreading habit of narrow, silver leaves. The flowers, light rose to lavender-pink are arranged in tight whorls stacked along the flowering stem and are favored by bumblebees.

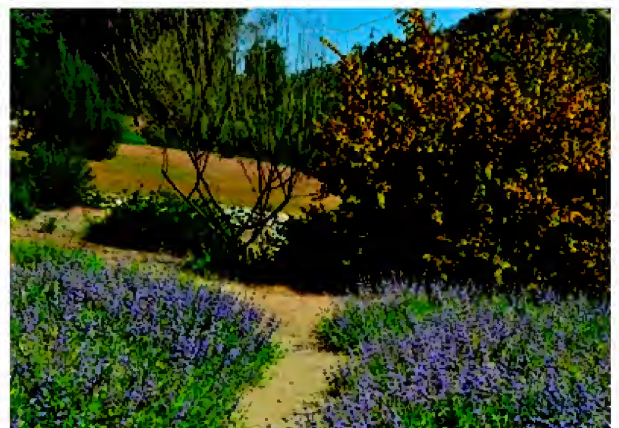
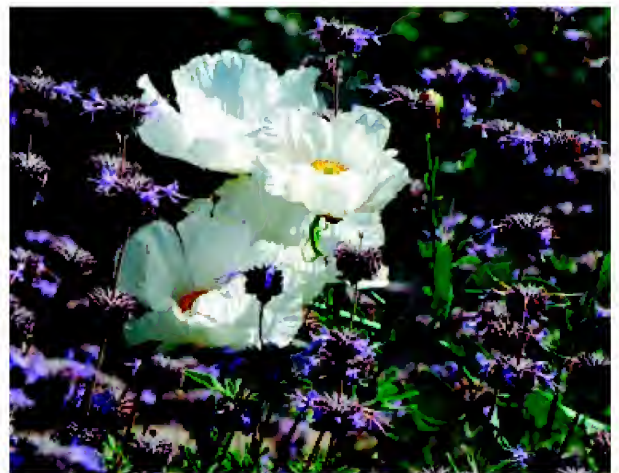
White Sage (*S. apiana*) The white sage is appropriately named for its prominent silvery white leaves and long wands of white flowers. The thick, resinous leaves are powerfully and pungently scented. White Sage has a fairly compact habit, however, the flowering stems can rise to 4 feet extending wildly in all directions. Give it plenty of room.

Hummingbird Sage (*S. spathacea*) Unlike the majority of California native salvias, the hummingbird sage is more perennial in habit, spreading underground, colonizing an area with its rhizomatous stems. It forms a dense carpet of large, textured leaves that are slightly sticky and have a distinctively sweet, pungent fragrance. In mid-spring though early summer the flowering stalks rise well above the foliage. The large maroon-red flowers poke out of the dense calyces, which are also tinted with maroon. *S. spathacea* prefers the shade of trees or large shrubs and is an excellent plant to use under oak trees.

'Bee's Bliss' (hybrid between *S. sonomensis* and *S. leucophylla*). For covering an exposed slope this salvia excels with its sweeping branches that make a lush carpet of narrow gray-green leaves. Blooming in mid to late spring, it produces whorls of light lavender-blue flowers on 18" stems, and as the name suggests it is highly attractive to bees and butterflies.

S. dorrii A slender woody plant, *S. dorrii* is covered with small, intensely scented, silver leaves. The flowers, congested in small tight whorls can range from light blue to a deep violet blue and are enhanced by the burgundy colored calyces. *S. dorrii* requires very well drained soil.

top left - bee fly on *Salvia dorrii*. middle left - *S. dorrii* in Warner Mtns.
bottom left - honeybee on *S. clevelandii*. top right - *S. leucophylla* in Chico garden. middle right - *S. clevelandii* with *Romneya coulteri*.
bottom right - *Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss' Photos by John Whittlesey



A TIME TO FLY AND FLOWER

by Rex Burress

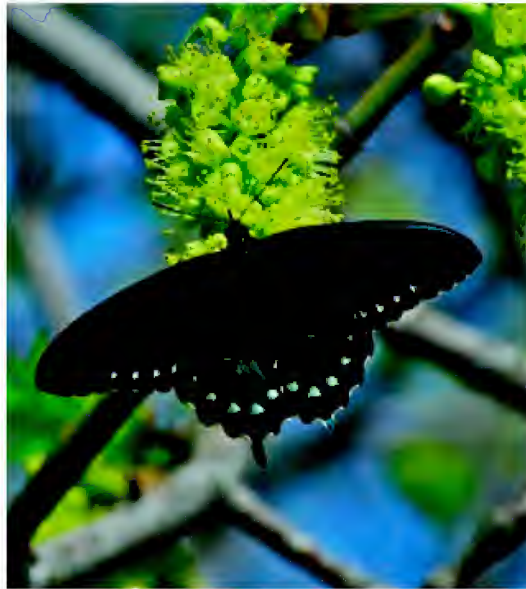
After weeks of winter drought along the Feather River, and then a couple rainy days in February, the birds finally rejoiced in uncovered seeds and worms!

The land eagerly soaked up much of the runoff, leaving little for the reservoir basins, but the hopes for a good flowering season was given some liquid promise. Table Mountain fields are perking up, even though the human population will still be contending with water deficiencies and water conservation. Wise use of our natural resources is a good habit anytime. If soil is the foundation of life, water is the elixir of growth.

How reviving to think flower lovers may be able to see the spread of March goldfield blossoms, the blue and white lupine, and the meadow-foam again. Mushroom fanciers were rather blocked out this season with the November dry-down after the earth-stars had a little early autumn rain-lift.

The waterfowl of the marshlands are not going to hang around to see where the water went, but are pulling out for nesting and feeding grounds in the far north as soon as the tundra snows recede. The snow geese masses start feeling the DNA instinct in February and shuffle away from their winter hideaways flock by flock.

The birds have an advantage over the root-bound plants in having wings to carry them over and away from drought adversity. How did the migrations commence? Was it the need for more water and food that becomes scarce in southern marshes? Was it the repetitive pattern of the ice ages? However the time-mechanism in their psychic came to be, they will heed that inner instruction and be off with the breezes, unerringly guided over the mountains... over the wilderness...to the objective of their destination.



It will be the same at the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge in Oakland, CA. The diving duck bunch came from the north as autumn storms drove them to the traditional sanctuary, even though city high-rise buildings encircle the lake, guided by that unseen power leading them to water that never knows drought, even though it is saltwater. The city habitat provided for their needs in spite of the mechanical clatter of the community.

Those wild waterfowl that had traveled over vast wilderness spaces and escaped untold dangers from aerial predators and unpredictable weather, would be lured near the shore by seeds and scraps to actually take food from the human hand! Those independent wild things recognize a port of safety and lose some of

that fear from human hunters.

Then one winter day along in March, they vanish, just as do bufflehead and goldeneye on the Feather River, and the valley refuges, probably lifting off in the dark to wind their way to summer retreats! Their migration leaves the bird-lover longing for the time when they return, which happens each year we hope. In the 32 years that I worked at Lake Merritt, the pattern never changed. The dozen species and maybe some strays, slipped onto the surface of safety.

In the come-and-go of the bird world, some species migrate farther on south in the fall, especially the swallows, and we look forward to those insect catcher's return. It is somewhat like an old song I just heard. "Supper time." As if the winds of the wild are calling "Come home, come home, it's supper time..." Much like the mother calling her son home to supper, it is also 'safe arrival home' for those who make it over the ridges and across the chasms to their summer home.

*Thou'rt gone! The abyss of heaven
Hath swallowed up thy form; yet in my heart
Deeply hath sunk the lesson thou hast given,
And shall not soon depart.*

- William Cullen Bryant

Pipevine swallowtail on big leaf maple catkins by Joan Walters

FRIENDS OF THE HERBARIUM 2014 WORKSHOPS

INTRO TO SOIL MORPHOLOGY AND HYDRIC SOILS

April 12, 2014, by Russell Huddleston

This workshop is an introduction to general soil morphology with an emphasis on describing the characteristics of the surface horizons and an introduction to hydric soils including oxidation-reduction processes, types of redoximorphic features and field indicators of hydric soils. Russell is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist and has over 13 years of professional experience working in wetlands throughout the western United States.

DESIGNING A POLLINATOR GARDEN

April 19, 2014, by John Whittlesey and Adrienne Edwards

Learn how to design a garden to encourage native pollinators by using plants that provide overlapping nectar, pollen, and larval food resources, providing pollinator nesting habitat, and eliminating the use of pesticides that kill non-target pollinators. Visit pollinator-friendly gardens to discuss plant selection, placement and care of a garden that cultivates a thriving habitat for a wide range of pollinators.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

April 26, 2014, by Judy McCrary

Want to draw plants and flowers? Local illustrator and teacher, Judy McCrary, will lead this one day workshop and will concentrate on pencil and ink techniques, although other media may be explored depending on the interests of the participants.

For more information about registration please contact the CSU, Chico Biology office 530 898-5356 or jbraden@csuchico.edu Detailed workshop descriptions and sign up forms are available on the Chico State Herbarium website: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

**Keep up with MLC Activities
on our website and Facebook**

California Native Plant Society,
Mount Lassen Chapter
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mountlassen.cnps.org



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(530)

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MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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Time Value

APRIL 2014 issue

APRIL 2



Pipevine



Phyllis would say

Join Today !



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

new _____

renew _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Send Membership Application to:

CNPS
2707 K STREET, SUITE 1
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-5113

Student / Limited Income	\$25
Individual	\$45
Family / Library	\$75
Plant Lover	\$100
Patron	\$300
Benefactor	\$600

mountlassen.cnps.org



April

- 2 - General Meeting
- 5 - Gateway Open Garden
- 6 - Thomes Creek RPTH
- 10 - 11 - Vernal Pool Conference
- 12 - Sutter Buttes
- 16 - Ex Board Meeting
- 20 - Ten Mile Trail Upper Bidwell
- 26 - Yahi Trail Upper Bidwell
- 26 - CCNC Celebrate the Jewel

May

- 3 - Endangered Species Faire
- 7 - General Meeting
- 21 - Ex Board Meeting